

STUDENT NAVAL AVIATOR CONTACT LENS POLICY (April 2005)

NAMI Eye Department

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Background: PRK Waivers

- PRK SNA Accession Program
 - SNA applicants that have had PRK are eligible to apply for a BUPERS or CMC waiver
 - -Must meet all other requirements
- USNA students are eligible for PRK through the Navy MTFs
- NROTC and OCS SNA applicants have to obtain PRK through the civilian sector at their own expense.

Background: Contact Lens Program

- The Aviation Contact Lens Program for designated aviators has met with great success.
- Properly fit soft contact lenses allow for a “neutralization” of refractive error similar to PRK.

Avjation Vision Standards

- The uncorrected vision standard for applicants is 20/40⁻⁰, correctable to 20/20⁻⁰ in each eye.
- Refractive limits:
 - 1.50 Diopters in the steepest meridian, or total minus power
 - Hyperopia is limited to $\leq +3.00$ Diopters
 - Cylinder power ≤ 1.00 Diopters



SNA Contact Lens Waiver

- Applicants that do not meet the normal applicant standards can apply for a waiver for the SNA program if they are successfully wearing soft contact lenses
 - **PMMA or RGP Hard Lenses will not meet the waiver criteria.**
- They still must meet all other vision requirements for waiver consideration

SNA Contact Lens Waiver Guidelines

- Must meet the same waiver requirements as the PRK Accession Program
 - No more than -8.00 diopters of total refractive error
 - No more than +6.00 diopters of hyperopia
 - No more than 2.00 diopters of astigmatism
 - Uncorrected VAs \leq 20/400
 - Measured on the AFVT, Optec, B-VAT or similar charts with multiple 20/400 letter capabilities

SNA Contact Lens Waiver Guidelines, cont.

- Uncorrected Snellen Acuity of 20/400 is not acceptable
 - A waiver request with Snellen 20/400 noted will be denied.
- Successful fit and habitual wear of soft contact lenses (worn as daily wear only) for a minimum of six months
 - Must be wearing approved soft contact lenses
 - See the Authorized SNA Contact Lenses Section of the Aeromedical Waiver Guide



Waiver Guidelines, cont.

- Must be wearing approved soft contact lenses
 - See the Authorized SNA Contact Lenses Section of the Aeromedical Waiver Guide
 - If the applicant is successfully wearing a known manufacturer's lens, seek assistance from NAMI Optometry for approval of that contact lens
- BCVA of 20/20⁻⁰ in each eye with contact lenses and spectacles
- BCVA of 20/20⁻⁰ in each eye with spectacle correction immediately after the removal of the contact lenses



Waiver Guidelines, cont.

- No visual symptoms with contact lenses worn (See Aeromedical Waiver Guide)
- No reduction in night vision, glare, or haloes with contact lenses in place
- Free from symptoms of discomfort with lenses in place
- No ocular pathology noted
 - See Aeromedical Waiver Guide
- Over-refraction of no more than +/-0.50D in any meridian



Waiver Guidelines, cont.

- Keratitis sicca or other dry eye complications with or without lenses in place is disqualifying
- Must meet all other SNA visual requirements
 - Adequate depth perception, color vision, phorias and intraocular pressures.

Information Required for the Waiver Process

- Use the SNA Contact Lens Checklist as a guideline to the requirements
- Must remove the contact lenses at least 30 days prior to the physical examination
- Must have proof of a successful fit and habitual wear for at least six months prior to the examination
- Include the Aviation PRK consult with the waiver packet

Information Required, cont.

- Submit the SNA Contact Lens Worksheet with the waiver packet
 - Include copies of a “pre-fit” manifest refraction, cycloplegic refraction, contact lens parameters, and proof of adequate six month follow-up care
- Soft Contact Lenses worn for therapeutic reasons other than refractive errors are not authorized
 - See the Aeromedical Waiver Guide
- Cosmetic tints are not authorized for this program
- Visibility tints (handling tints) are allowable



Aviation PRK Consult

- At the time of waiver consideration, an Aviation PRK Consult will be completed
 - In the event the SNA can no longer wear soft contact lenses successfully
- Submit a copy of the PRK Consult with the rest of the waiver request packet

Mandatory Examination Intervals

- Designated aviators and designated student naval aviators, authorized to wear contact lenses, are required to have periodic eye examinations and contact lens evals:
 - Contact Lens Evaluation-every six months
 - Comprehensive evaluations - annually

Summary

- Use the SNA Contact Lens Checklist as a guideline to the requirements
- Extended wear use (over-night wear) of soft contact lenses is prohibited
- Snellen Acuity (single letter) of 20/400 is not acceptable
- Fluctuating visual acuity is not acceptable (toric lenses)
- Disposable or frequent replacement lenses are the lenses of choice



Summary, cont.

- All SNA visual requirements must be met with soft contact lenses and spectacles
- During the student aviation status, they will have to procure approved contact lenses and supplies from a civilian source.
- They can enroll in the Aviation Contact Lens Program once they are winged, and at their first squadron

Summary, cont.

- All aviation personnel on active flight orders, and authorized to wear contact lenses, are required to carry spectacles on their person or in their flight suit
 - This policy is mandatory for Duty Involving Flight Operations (DIFOPS)

Summary, cont.

- Aeromedical Waiver Guide
- SNA Vision Standards
- Designated Aviator Vision Standards
- Contact NAMI Eye Clinic for further assistance at the following telephone numbers:
 - DSN: 922-2257 x1051/1052
 - COMM: (850) 452-2257 x1051/1052

